(vi) Noise standards for industrial zones have been notified.

(vii) Fiscal incentives are being provided to industries for the installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries away from congested areas;

(viii) Customs and Excise duty exemptions are being provided to the industries for installation of pollution control/monitoring equipment.

(ix) Under an ongoing scheme assistance is being provided to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants

Bridge from Mahim to Nariman Point

671 SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA *Will the Minister of* RAILWAYS *be pleased to* state

(a) whether there is a proposal for construction of Railway bridge from Mahim to Nariman Point

(b) if so, the funds allocated for the project and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Provision of Funds to Seeds Corporation of India

672 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the amount provided by the Union Government to the Seeds Corporation of India during the last five years and the prupose for which the said amount was provided

(b) whether the desired purpose have been fulfilled.

(c) if not the reasons therefor and

(d) the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Hon'ble Member may kindly clarify whether he is referring to National Seeds Corporation or State Farms Corporation of India

(b) to (d) In view of the position explained above, the question does not arise

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Mountaineers

673 SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team of Indo-Tibetan Border Police mountaineers had successfully scaled the highest peak of the world, the Mount Everest recently,

(b) whether they died while decending from the peak;

(c) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for their death, and

(d) if so, the outcome of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Seven members of ITBP Mountaineers successfully scaled the Mount Everest—three on 10th May, 1996 and four on 17th May, 1996

(b) Three summiters of 10th May, 1996 died while descending from the peak

(c) and (d) Investigations made have revealed that these summiters while descending from the summit were trapped in a furious blizzard. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered and is in progress.

[English]

Quality of Food in Trains

674. SHRI R L P VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the quality of the food supplied to the railway passengers in trains and tea and snacks in the restaurants run by the Railway Catering Department is very poor and the passengers are being fleeced by the Catering Department.

(b) if so, the number of complaints received in this regard during last three years, year-wise and the action taken thereon

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to improve the quality of food, tea and snacks served in the trains, and the platforms by the vendors canteens restaurants.

(d) whether inferior quality biscuits are being sold served by the Railways and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to ensure supply of good quality biscuits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. While Railways exercise due care to provide good quality service to passengers, complaints which arise from time to time are attended to promptly and remedial